Welfare Schemes

3599. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes meant for the welfare of poor, old people, widows and destitutes fully and partly financed by the Central Government;

(b) the number of persons benefited from these schemes during each of the last five years and the current year, State/Union territory-wise;

(c) the total funds allocated for these schemes; and

(d) the State given maximum grant under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loan to Farmers

3600. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial and physical targets fixed for providing loans at concessional rates to the small and marginal farmers under the Multi Agency System during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the financial and physical achievements made under the scheme during the said period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the rates of interest of loans being provided under the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No separate financial and physical target is fixed for providing loans at concessional rate of interest to small and marginal farmers. Moreover, as per the present policy, the interest rate to ultimate borrowers is determined on the basis of the quantum of loans issued and not on the basis of category of farmers.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Economic Package for North East States

3601. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of packages announced by the Prime Minister during his tours in the country till date;

(b) whether any high-powered Committee has been constituted to suggest the ways and means to implement these packages;

(c) the date of announcement of development package of Rs. 7,000 crore for the north-east; and

(d) the present position of the packages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Statements I and II, one relating to the North-East and the other to Jammu & Kashmir, are enclosed.

Statement-I

(a) to (d) The Prime Minister had visited all the seven States of the North-East from October 22 to 27, 1996. On conclusion of the visit, PM announced certain New Initiatives for the North-Eastern Region. The key features of the New Initiatives are:—

1. All Central Ministries/Departments will earmark at least 10% of their budget for specific programme in the North Eastern States.
2. Full funding for ongoing projects.
3. Brahmaputra flood control projects to get 100% grant from the Centre.
4. Employment Assurance Scheme to be extended to all Blocks in the North Eastern States.
5. Improved credit flow to North Eastern States.
6. Full coverage of the North East through telecommunication and electronic media.
7. A new Industrial Policy will be evolved for the North-Eastern Region.
8. An integrated Tourism Development Plan will be drawn up.
9. A package of projects for each State at a total estimated cost of Rs. 6100 crores was announced.

These projects are being intensively monitored both by the Ministry of Home Affairs (NE Division) and the Special Cell created in the Prime Minister's Office.

The implementation of this has commenced and is expected to be fully implemented by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan.

Statement-II

Prime Minister, during his visit to Jammu & Kashmir on 13-14th February, 1997 announced following measures with